

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7509

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TAGS: OVIP (FUKUDA, TAKEO)

SUBJECT: FUKUDA SUMMIT: AMBASSADOR TOGO ON FUKUDA SUMMIT

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF JAPAN TIMES COVERAGE OF
AMBASSADOR TOGO'S MEETING WITH PRESS AT MOFA APRIL 27
IN COURSE OF HIS PRE-SUMMIT CONSULTATIONS. TOGO DWELT AT
SOME LENGTH ON DEFENSE COST-SHARING, INDICATING HE DID NOT
THINK US WOULD PRESS JAPAN "HARD" ON ISSUE, OR THAT IT
WOULD BECOME "SUBJECT FOR HEATED DEBATE."

2. "AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON FUMIHIKO TOGO SAID IN TOKYO
THURSDAY THAT HE DOES NOT THINK THE UNITED STATES, WHICH
REGARDS ASIA AS A RELATIVELY STABILIZED REGION OF THE WORLD,
WILL PRESS JAPAN HARD TO SHOULDER A BIGGER SHARE OF ITS
DEFENSE SPENDING FOR ITS CONTINUOUS STATIONING OF TROOPS
IN JAPAN AND OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES.

3 "TOGO SAID THAT HE HAD SELDOM HEARD COMPLAINTS AMONG
THE AMERICANS OVER THE DEFENSE-COST SHARING ISSUE AND THAT
IT WILL NOT BECOME A SUBJECT FOR HEATED DEBATE WHEN PRIME
MINISTER TAKEO FUKUDA MEETS WITH US PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER
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IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 3.

4. "THE AMBASSADOR, WHO RETURNED HOME WEDNESDAY NIGHT TO
CONFER WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS OVER THE FORTHCOMING FUKUDA-
CARTER TALKS, MET THE PRESS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

5. "GENERALLY SPEAKING, HOWEVER, WASHINGTON TAKES IT FOR

GRANTED THAT EVERY NATION OUGHT TO ADEQUATELY SHARE DEFENSE COSTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN FINANCIAL CAPABILITY, HE EXPLAINED.

6. "BUT THE US PEOPLE, HE WENT ON, WOULD PREFER TO SEE JAPAN MAKE MORE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS TREATMENT ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARRIVING HERE AND JOIN INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS TO DEVELOP NEW ENERGY RESOURCES REPLACING CRUDE OIL.

7. "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, WHICH HAS RECENTLY CLEARED A MAJOR HURDLE BY PASSING THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY AND IS SHORTLY TO HAVE ITS ENERGY CONSERVATION BILLS APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS, IS 'CONSIDERABLY RELAXED' TO RECEIVE THE FORMAL VISIT OF FUKUDA, THE AMBASSADOR SAID.

8. "THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SEEM TO HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE JAPANESE EFFORTS TO CUT ITS TRADE SURPLUSES, EXPAND IMPORTS AND REVITALIZE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES MORE THAN SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE, HE SAID.

9. "REFERRING TO THE US POLICY TOWARD CHINA, TOGO SAID THAT THE PLANNED VISIT TO PEKING BY ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, CARTER'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR, WILL BEAR NO SIGNIFICANT MEANING BUT WILL BE A PART OF WASHINGTON'S EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

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10. "THERE WAS NO SIGN THAT THE WHITE HOUSE'S CHINA POLICY HAD RECENTLY CHANGED, THE AMBASSADOR ADDED." SHERMAN

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